

**Remarks/Arguments :**

The specification has been amended so as to correct an inadvertent typographical error. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

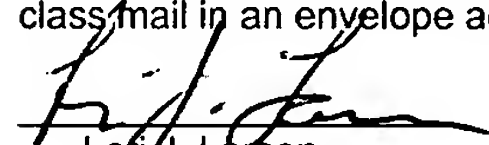
KOICHI ONO

By

Gregory P. LaPointe  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 28,395

Date: December 22, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on December 22, 2003.

  
Lori J. Larson